

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 19, 2016**

**ATTENDANCE:** Milta Feliciano, Co-Chair; M. Evette Brantley, Co-Chair (7:45 PM); Aidee Nieves; Michelle Lyons; Eneida Martinez; Jeanette Herron (6:25 PM)

**OTHERS:** Jack Banta; Anthony Paoletto; Denese Taylor-Moye; Tom Gaudett; Kevin Muhammad; Dan Donovan; Autumn Hurst; Ed Lavernoich; Kinglsey Osei; Angel DePara; Anna Greer; Albertina Baptista; Jonathan James

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-Chair Feliciano called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM. A quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Approval of Committee Minutes of March 15, 2016**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 15, 2016 REGULAR MEETING.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**78-15**

**GRANT SUBMISSION RE: NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
FOR A NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM  
(PROJECT #17306)**

Ms. Hurst stated that this grant requires no match and has no real funding that would come to the City, but is instead used to cover the costs of an intern. She stated that the National Environmental Health Association will select college students from accredited universities, and that the grant will be used to relocate them, most likely to help with mosquito control efforts in the City.

Co-Chair Feliciano asked for clarification that the City handles no money in this matter, and Ms. Baptista answered in the affirmative.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 78-15 RE: GRANT SUBMISSION RE: NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION FOR A NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (PROJECT #17306).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**79-15**

**GRANT SUBMISSION RE: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION FOR A PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATE PROGRAM TO WORK ON ISSUES RELATED TO CHRONIC DISEASE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION (PROJECT #17445)**

Ms. Hurst stated that this grant would be used to acquire a Public Health Fellow for the City, whose term would be 2 years. She stated that Mr. James' term is expiring, and thus they are applying for another fellow who will work on issues of chronic disease as identified by the Department of Health through their community health needs assessments. She stated that the funds are handled directly by the CDC, and that there is no match required of the City.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 79-15 RE: GRANT SUBMISSION RE: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION FOR A PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATE PROGRAM TO WORK ON ISSUES RELATED TO CHRONIC DISEASE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION (PROJECT #17445).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**82-15**

**GRANT SUBMISSION RE: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION FOR A PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATE PROGRAM TO WORK ON ISSUES RELATED TO HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION (PROJECT #17300)**

Ms. Hurst stated that this application is the same situation as the previous grant submission, which the City has applied for in hopes of retaining a Fellow to help the Department of Health achieve accreditation.

Co-Chair Feliciano asked how accreditation helps the Department. Ms. Baptista stated that accreditation provides the Department with a network of other Health Departments with which they may confer. Ms. Baptista stated that they would be recommended nationally and would serve as a model for best practices in the work they do with the Public Health Accreditation Board.

Council Member Lyons asked if the accreditation denotes a higher standard and could help them gain more financing, and Ms. Baptista stated that it would be possible. Council Member Lyons asked if, sans accreditation, certain facets could not be policed, and Ms. Baptista answered in the affirmative.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 82-15**

**RE: GRANT SUBMISSION RE: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION FOR A PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATE PROGRAM TO WORK ON ISSUES RELATED TO HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION (PROJECT #17300).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NIEVES SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Council Member Herron arrived at 6:25 PM.**

**80-15**

**GRANT SUBMISSION RE: ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION SYSTEMS  
FOR AN ACTION GRANT PROGRAM (PROJECT #17292)**

Ms. Hurst stated that the City partnered with Sacred Heart to collaborate on this grant submission, serving primarily as the fiduciary responsibility. She stated that the grant goes to Sacred Heart for research, which will be carried out by the Council of Churches, in the interest of creating a sustainable, innovative system to link and improve health among low income food pantry patrons.

She stated that they plan to develop a natural experiment to see how health incomes and medical care costs relate to the type of program used and create electronic data, usable for the City and other entities to determine health outcomes and data.

Co-Chair Feliciano asked how this grant will benefit the City. Ms. Hurst stated that the reason they applied is because they received a Culture of Health prize and with the City of Bridgeport named as an applicant, this gave the university a leg up. Co-Chair Feliciano asked how the Health Department will benefit from this grant, and Ms. Hurst stated that Sabine Cuzco will serve as the project manager.

Council Member Martinez voiced her concerns regarding the application, and stated that a 211 or CAN system keeps track on individuals in these situations. She stated that she does not see how this is going to benefit the community, but sees how it will instead benefit the Council of Churches. She stated that this sort of system is already in place, and that she currently works for a company where this type of data entry is performed.

Council Member Lyons asked how the university would be responsible for overseeing and conducting the research. Ms. Greer, from Sacred Heart, stated that she also works on the Food Policy Council, and that through outreach and research she discovered that once people leave the Emergency Department at the hospital, they fall through the tracks, whereas those with follow up are less likely to return. Ms. Greer stated that they hope to create a network that will trigger them to be part of a program where a community health worker meets these at-risk individuals at the food pantry and provides nutritional counseling. Ms. Greer stated that they plan to look at the multitude of factors contributing to the problem, and that they do not currently have a program of this kind in place. Ms. Greer stated that, in communities where programs of this nature have been put in place, they have seen tremendous improvements across the board in reductions in diabetes or heart disease incomes. Ms. Greer stated that the equity support network is for individuals who have the ability to make policy decisions related to health, and that they will meet monthly to discuss common challenges and determine how to best address them.

Co-Chair Feliciano stated that the presence of a community health worker could compromise the confidentiality of the food pantry clients. She further stated that similar measures are taken in food pantries in the City at present (Co-Chair Feliciano's included), and that the primary issue is instances where healthy food options run out. Ms. Greer stated that, in the event healthy food options run out, the behavioral counselors would assist in helping these individuals after the fact, potentially in shopping for food.

Council Member Martinez stated that numerous non-profit organizations have similar programs and provisions as the proposed grant usage, including Merton House. Ms. Greer stated that Merton House is involved in the grant, and that at present, the organizations collect data, but no one creates behavior adjacent data or uses it to determine which style of program helps people eat healthier or links it to hospital data. Ms. Greer stated that this is a research grant, so the funding would go to creating research to understand how to more effectively manage these programs. Ms. Greer stated that currently hospitals have to spend community benefits dollars in some way, and if they can show that community food programs are linked to less admissions, they can potentially receive more community funds to help Bridgeport. Ms. Greer stated that the hope is that this will bring in more money for the City in the future with zero cost to the City. Ms. Greer further stated that she is working pro-bono. Council Member Martinez asked if Ms. Greer has the figures with areas of higher need categorizes. Ms. Greer stated that she can procure and send those numbers to the committee members.

Council Member Lyons asked if the amount allotted to Sacred Heart is salary adjacent. Ms. Greer answered in the negative, stating that the amount instead releases her from some of her teaching responsibilities to do the research and recoups some of the money for Sacred Heart. Ms. Greer stated that the grant is used as a small amount of overhead to cover all software, printing, public relations and publishing costs incurred by Sacred Heart. Council Member Lyons asked how the grant benefits the university. Ms. Greer stated, from a university standpoint, that receiving grants favorably increases perception and ratings for the school, and provides

references for Ms. Greer herself when it comes time for her to advance her position. Council Member Lyons asked why the Council of Churches is involved. Ms. Greer stated that the Council oversees 32 programs in the City, and in this vein, can help the researchers get access to low income residents who need help in regards to these issues. Ms. Greer stated that anyone involved in the program must provide informed consent, and that an independent ethics review board approve an informed consent for process for every research project run through the university.

Council Member Herron asked if the number of staff listed would be sufficient to run the program, and expressed concern that the hospital would be inundated. Co-Chair Feliciano stated that the Emergency Departments would refer the patients to community health workers, who would then inform them on how to eat more healthily.

Co-Chair Feliciano stated that she does not see the benefit to the Health Department or the City, and does not see how this could help the clients of the food pantries unless the community aid worker goes shopping with them directly. Ms. Greer stated that the support will look different for every person, and that they based their plan on a great deal of background research on what other cities have done.

Council Member Martinez stated that Bridgeport Hospital has a nutritional program for those who present with dietary issues, and that in those instances, a nutritionist comes down for a consultation. Ms. Greer stated that if someone leave the hospital, even after being provided with resources, there is about a 50% follow through at best.

Council Member Lyons asked that, should this grant be approved, periodic reports in reference to progress are given to the City. She then asked what the duration of the program would be. Ms. Hurst stated that the grant lasts for 2 years. Council Member Lyons stated that they should know within the 2 year period if this program is an advantage, and asked if there is a method in place to provide the City with reports. Ms. Hurst stated that the City would have a contract with Sacred Heart and the Council of Churches, and that a provision of said contract could be that a written report be provided every 2 months. Ms. Hurst further stated that UCONN and University of Bridgeport would be involved with the grant as well, with UCONN primarily doing statistical analysis. Council Member Lyons asked why Housatonic is not involved, and Ms. Greer stated that they were invited, and if they choose to be involved, will do so from a shadowing standpoint. Council Member Lyons asked for the specifics of the order of operations, and Ms. Greer stated that Sacred Heart is the principal investigator, UB does the statistics and the Council of Churches hires the staff.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO TABLE ITEM 80-15**

**GRANT SUBMISSION RE: ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION SYSTEMS FOR AN ACTION GRANT PROGRAM (PROJECT #17292) FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:**

- 1. TO ALLOW THE APPLICANT WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE THE COMMITTEE WITH ADDITIONAL STATISTICS, DATA AND REPORTS RELATED TO THE GRANT PROPOSAL.**

Ms. Hurst stated that they will find out in the next month or two if they received the grant.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED THE MOTION.**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Co-Chair Feliciano asked that Ms. Greer leave her contact information in order to procure the requested information, and Ms. Greer obliged.

**81-15**

**GRANT SUBMISSION RE: UNITED WAY WORLDWIDE FUND FOR PROGRESS ON RACE IN AMERICA FOR THE SHINE A LIGHT PROJECT (PROJECT #17316)**

Ms. Hurst stated that the grant application relates to funding that addresses progress on race in America, and provides money for non-profits and Cities to address racial issues in the community. She stated that Mr. Osei and Mr. Mohammad are present to speak on the matter.

Co-Chair Feliciano asked how much funding is being requested, and Ms. Hurst stated that they are requesting \$40,000. Co-Chair Feliciano asked for a breakdown of the program. Ms. Hurst stated that the following activities will take place:

1. Phase 1: A series of bimonthly educational workshops will address issues of racial and ethnic identity, the causes and effects of racial divisiveness, and the history of social justice movements in and around the region. Skills will be taught in social media use, marketing and public speaking.
2. Phase 2: In-depth ‘Undoing Racism’ training for community leaders through workshops with the People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond (PISAB).
3. Phase 3: A series of bimonthly field trips to sites such as the Connecticut Freedom Trail or places with significant historical importance to racial and ethnic justice movements.
4. Phase 4: A series of town hall meetings on race and racial discrimination at local Bridgeport schools. Following these meetings, the findings will be reported to the Mayor.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO ENTER THE DOCUMENT TITLED ‘SHINING A LIGHT FUND GRANT APPLICATION’ AS EXHIBIT 8115-A.**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED THE MOTION.**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Co-Chair Feliciano asked how they plan to recruit the members of their action team and whether or not there will be a bilingual individual on staff. Mr. Osei stated that Jeanette Ortiz will be on the team, and that having a bilingual member of the community on their team is of great importance. Mr. Osei further stated that they will recruit through the Twilight Program run through the City. Mr. Mohammad stated that the Twilight Program identifies students not finding success in their daytime classes and thus offer night classes, selecting those who are on the cusp of graduating or not graduating. Mr. Osei stated that those youth would make up the MBK Youth Action Team and that they plan to go through Mike Testane, who oversees that. Mr. Mohammad stated, in regards to the bilingual aid worker, that the grant application has already been submitted with the facilitators listed, but that they could add a position as paid staff or sans pay. Ms. Hurst stated that, if they are awarded the grant, they could provide the United Way with a request for a third facilitator and work with them to add the position.

Council Member Martinez stated that Ms. Ortiz does not appear to be listed on the application. Mr. Osei stated that each program has experts depending on their needs. Council Member Martinez expressed her desire that they have a bilingual facilitator who is a staff member rather than a volunteer. Ms. Hurst stated, because Ms. Ortiz is not paid, she is not listed, and that Mr. Osei does not appear either, as he is also not paid.

Council Member Lyons asked if the program is specifically for young men of color who are African-American. Mr. Mohammad stated that the initiative was set forth to help address gaps and lack of diversity in business and schools, and that looking at the date, 70% of Bridgeport's residency was black/African-American. Mr. Mohammad stated that they aim to have people working specifically with this population of kids, and that they strive to build future community leaders, empower them and provide them with skills and opportunities that may otherwise be impeded by geographic isolation. Mr. Mohammad stated that they provide them with an in-depth history of the area, neighborhoods and measure their perceptions of race before and after the program.

Council Member Martinez stated that it is key to address young individuals of mixed heritage and to make them feel comfortable. Co-Chair Feliciano asked that a bilingual facilitator be procured before the committee moves the application forward. Council Member Lyons asked when they will find out if they received the grant. Ms. Hurst stated that they should find out on Friday, and that timing may be a problem. Council Member Martinez recommended that Mr. Osei facilitate the hire of a paid bilingual facilitator for the program prior to the next Council Meeting, present the information to the committee, and if they are deemed acceptable, they will pass the application out of committee.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO TABLE ITEM 81-15 RE:  
GRANT SUBMISSION RE: UNITED WAY WORLDWIDE FUND FOR PROGRESS ON  
RACE IN AMERICA FOR THE SHINE A LIGHT PROJECT (PROJECT #17316)**

**PENDING A SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON MAY 2, 2016 TO BE HELD BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING IN THE INTEREST OF MEETING THE COMMITTEE'S REQUEST THAT A BILINGUAL FACILITATOR BE PROCURED FOR THE PROGRAM AND THAT REFERENCES AND A RESUME BE PROVIDED IN RELATION TO SAID FACILITATOR FOR THE COMMITTEE'S APPROVAL.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**88-15**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE ENTERPRISE ZONE  
STATUTE TO ENABLE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BRIDGEPORT THERMAL  
DISTRICT PROJECT**

Mr. Lavernoich stated that this application relates to the phase in for the thermal heating loop proposed in the South End and Downtown. He stated that Mr. Donovan is the principal in the design, and that they have been working on this plan for a year and a half. He stated that this is based on a model that is very popular in Europe, and that they have assembled the financing, including significant grant funds, funds from the state and a favorably priced loan from the CT Green Bank. He stated that the State is very much in favor of the project, and that it is wonderful for Bridgeport, which they expect to see reduce its carbon footprint significantly while using waste heat. He further stated that the City could potentially make millions of square footage of buildings more efficient in the future as a result of this technology, and as a result, more desirable investments. Mr. Lavernoich distributed information packets to the committee members, which consisted of the following:

1. A cover letter.
2. Reference to passages of state law that relate to the application.
3. The specific passages of state law that benefit the application, verbatim.
4. An opinion letter on the project.

Mr. Lavernoich stated that during the time it will take to connect the subscribers, there is a time of considerable risk for the developer, and that they would like to apply the phase in order to curb these costs and risks.

Mr. Donovan stated that this technology has been used in Europe for roughly 30 years and uses waste heat from various sources like power plants, waste energy facilities and fuels cells that would ordinarily go into the atmosphere. This waste heat is then captured, the hot air goes through the tubes and heats the water, which is then pumped for energy.

**Council Member Nieves excited at 7:25 PM.**

**Council President McCarthy entered in 7:25 PM.**



Mr. Donovan stated that there is a great deal of experience on their team, including numerous companies and suppliers from Denmark. He distributed pictures of the actual piping, which is small and bendable and depending on the connection, can be smaller PVC pipes or larger pieces made of thin-walled steel. He stated that the tubes can be buried 2 feet below the ground or less, and that in Northern Europe, there are extensive loops, which require community members to tie in. He stated that Stamford University created an entire facility with this heating capability, and that the first phase is UB hooking up to the UI fuel cell.

Council Member Banta stated that he is one of the biggest supporters of the solar panels and p-stack.

Mr. Lavernoich stated that there are schedules on pages 3 and 4 of the packet, and that they are 100% tax exempt for 2 years once construction commences. He stated that by year 8, they will be fully taxable. Mr. Lavernoich stated that part of the project is installed in an area designated as a state enterprise zone.

Council Member Herron asked if the technology is being used anywhere in the states now, and Mr. Donovan answered in the affirmative, stating that a legislative building is run on this technology, and has done so flawlessly for 20 years.

Council President McCarthy stated that he supports this application because it provides clean energy (to the benefit of Bridgeport's children), supports the preservation of the ozone layer, and if they don't do this, they receive no money whatsoever.

Council Member Banta inquired about the system's connection to the third fuel cell on State Street. Mr. Donovan stated that there is a cycle that takes all of the extra energy and turns it into electricity, and that it currently isn't very efficient. Mr. Donovan stated that they are looking to put another fuel cell on Iranistan and Railroad and if they are successful in bidding, they will provide a sizable amount of heat.

Council Member Banta asked how much inconvenience they should expect when they begin to install the pipes in the roads. Mr. Donovan stated that there shouldn't be a lot of disturbance, and that they can complete the installation relatively quickly. Council Member Banta asked if they could repave Atlantic after they finish. Mr. Donovan stated that they are responsible for patching, but that it is likely they will split the cost between gas and water to fully repave the road.

Co-Chair Feliciano asked where and how they are digging the trenches. Mr. Donovan stated that the trenches should be fairly narrow, with pipes buried shallow, and that they don't need to tear up the whole road. He stated that a number of the locations will be on campus, and thus they will do what the university requests. Mr. Donovan further stated that they could even go across the park, as the hot water will keep the grass green.

Council Member Banta asked how the system goes to individual buildings. Mr. Donovan stated that, instead of a main boiler, it goes into the heat exchange and the same plumbing system previously installed. Council Member Banta asked how it regulates heat in the house, and Mr. Donovan stated that it provides the same amount of heat as a boiler.

Council President McCarthy stated that, if there is a way to work with utilities and UB to organize a way to pave following the installation, they would strongly advise them to do so.

**Council Member Nieves returned at 7:44 PM.**

Mr. Donovan stated that David Kooris procured funds for the reinforcement of the storm situation, and that they worked with him closely. He stated that there may be topography changes, and that they intend to piggyback on the things he is doing for reinforcement.

Co-Chair Feliciano asked if they can pick the size of the tube to be utilized. Mr. Donovan stated that this depends on the design, with the large tubes being used from the main centers and branching out like a tree, with smaller tubes at the fringes.

**Council Member Brantley entered at 7:45 PM.**

Co-Chair Feliciano asked if this will interfere with other utilities. Mr. Donovan stated that, because their system can have shallowly installed tubes, they have a certain amount of flexibility, and shouldn't disturb the other utilities. Co-Chair Feliciano asked if their designer has worked with the Engineering Department. Mr. Donovan stated that they have retained Malon and McKeown, who have done aerial photos of the City and requested a review of interference from UB.

Co-Chair Brantley asked if they currently plan to extend to the West End, and Mr. Lavernoich answered in the negative, stating that these are the beginning stages of the project and once they find more sources of heat, they can extend through other neighborhoods. Mr. Donovan stated that the early stages help them find anchors from which they can extend throughout the City. Mr. Donovan stated that almost the entire country of Denmark uses this system, and because of thermodynamics, the heat goes a very long way. He further stated that they intend to expand over time and have an idea for cooling, but that will require more capital and will perhaps be considered in the future. Co-Chair Brantley asked about the project's sponsors. Mr. Donovan stated that they are back by the CT Green Bank, New Power Thermal and the Danish Export Credit Agency. Co-Chair Brantley asked if the tubes do go from commercial to residential, will they take over from Southern New Hampshire. Mr. Donovan stated that the idea of the technology is to reduce the amount of natural gas use over the life of agreements. Mr.

Lavernoich stated that, far in the future, there may be the opportunity to tie into individual residences once there is critical mass.

Council Member Banta asked if there is a forced hot air unit, how it would fit into this system. Mr. Donovan stated that it could potentially be retrofitted.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 88-15  
RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE ENTERPRISE  
ZONE STATUTE TO ENABLE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BRIDGEPORT  
THERMAL DISTRICT PROJECT.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Ramos

Telesco Secretarial Services